

QUASAR EMISSION LINE VARIABILITY FROM HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE ARCHIVE DATA.

Kasey Hogan

Department of Physics

The College at Brockport: State University of New York

Brockport, NY

khoga2@u.brockport.edu

Using the Hubble Space Telescope Archive (HST), flux variations in low-redshift ($z < 1.7$) quasar spectra were measured and analyzed. Flux variations were measured for the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ $\lambda 1216$ broad emission line (BEL), CIV $\lambda 1549$ BEL, and continuum emission from the central ionizing source. Quasars and active galactic nuclei (AGN) that have spectral data for at least two points in time to obtain flux ratios were used. Custom Python scripts were written to quicken the process of analyzing raw HST spectral data. The results show a strong correlation to the flux variations for the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ BEL and the CIV BEL, and less so for the continuum emission and each BEL. By using this statistical approach and continuing to build up a database of flux variability, information can be obtained that will be useful to modeling quasar activity.